By ARLEN SPECTER

*"Involved citizens can guarantee that there is absolute integrity in their public officials."*
— Arlen Specter

Those of us who are natural born citizens tend to take the United States for granted, but I recall my father's enormous pride in his United States citizenship.

His hard life in Russia denied him an opportunity for a formal education, so he worked diligently to be sure that his four children could graduate from college. He was a man who paid his taxes cheerfully, although regretfully he did not have an opportunity to pay very much in taxes; and he would quote Will Roger's statement, "It's a great country, but you can't live in it for nothing."

My parents, characteristic of so many immigrants, brought vision and idealism with them to this great country. Today, I would like to revisit two of my parents' principles and to recommend those principles to you and to all our fellow Americans.

Those principles are "involvement" and "integrity."

Within the past two years, the structure of our national government has been shaken with more scandal than in the balance of the past 200 years. We have seen a President resign under the threat of impeachment and a Vice President resign under a threat of imprisonment.

Some of America's most illustrious executives from corporations like Gulf Oil, American Airlines and Ashland Oil have been indicted for violating federal laws.

Like the bubonic plague, corruption has been spawned at every level of local, state and national government. Almost everywhere you look, there is a "special prosecutor" ferreting out government corruption.

Like the chicken and the egg it is impossible to determine which comes first. The voters in the United States are turned off in massive numbers by corruption at every level of government. As a result of indifference by our citizens, who refuse to vote, corrupt public officials are able to maintain their stronghold on government through rotten machine politics.

Any election can be won by the non-voters. The non-voters always hold the balance of power. In the wake of Watergate, fewer than 59 percent of voters turned out on election day.

Notwithstanding our problems, I believe there is an answer. It is as easy to articulate as it is hard to implement. It is involvement by citizens. That will, in turn, produce integrity in our elected officials.

Personally, I am as optimistic about our nation's future as I am proud of our nation's past. We have always derived greater strength from our principles than weakness from our problems. As individuals and as a people, we suffer setbacks and it is tempting to become disillusioned and discouraged.

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Involved citizens can guarantee that there is absolute integrity in their public officials. I urge all of you to participate to the fullest in the affairs of your city, state and nation.

In the past quarter century, and even in the last decade, "integrity" and "involvement" have made a big difference in the life of our city when an involved citizenry has demanded integrity in government. By applying these principles at all levels in our personal lives and in the life of our nation, we can produce a greater America by the time our children's children's children reconvene in this neighborhood for our country's tricentennial.

*Mr. Specter, the former district attorney, made the above comments at the first naturalization ceremony in the new Federal Court House last Wednesday.*